## M'CLELLAN'S VICTORY.

## Additional Details of the Great Battle of Saturday and Sunday.

Important Operations in Front of Richmond.

The Desperate Attack of the Rebels on McClellan's Right Flank.

SPLENDID CONDUCT OF OUR TROOPS.

What the Bayonet Can Accomplish.

The Army of the Potomac Takes No Step Backwards.

Novel Use of the Balloon and Telegraph by Me lellan.

"Some Things Can Be Done as Well as Others."

Operations of the Gunboats on the James and Chickahominy Rivers.

SKETCH OF RICHMOND AND VICINITY

OUR SPECIAL DESPATCHES.

The despatches from General McClellan give us the particulars of a grand battle which took place on the last day of May and the 1st of June, on the west side of the Chickahominy river. General McClellan states that the corps of Generals Sumner, Heintzelman and Keyes had been engaged against greatly superior numbers, the enemy taking advantage of a terrible storm, which had flooded the valley of the Chickshominy, to attack his troops on the flank. General Casey's division which was in the first line, gave way unaccountably and disunitedly. This caused a temporary confusion, during which the guns and baggage were lost; but Generals Heintzelman and Kearney most gallantly brought up their troops which checked the enemy. At the same time however, we succeeded, by great exertion, it bringing across Generals Sedgwick's and Richardson's divisions, which belong to the corps of Gen point of the bayonet, covering the ground with his dead. The next morning (Sunday) the enemy at tempted to ranew the conflict, but was everywhere repulsed. Many prisoners were taken, among whom were General Pettigrew and Colonel Long The enemy's loss was considered to be enormous With the exception of General Casey's division, the men behaved splendidly.

Later despatches, of an unofficial character, re Potomac, say that the importance and dimensions of the victory increase as they are hourly de-

The following correspondence, which, with o r partment, we have withheld from the public will explain many of the preliminary movements which have heretofore been unknown by them, and which have resulted in this grand battle and victory. It will be seen that General McClellan has, while sending along in front a brigade or a division as a feeler, ably supported them within striking distance by others fresh and vigorous and ready for the fight. As the object has been to some extent attained, and as the rebels have felt the force of the blows of those generals mentioned in this correspondence, there is nothing contraband now in its publication. We-

## THE PRELIMINABLES OF THE GREAT BATTLE.

GARN OF ROBERT MERCH,
HEAD SLAVE ON COL. WM. FITHERICH LIE'S PLANTATION
WHITE HOUSE POINT, Va., May 25, 1862. obert and his Diana—Robert a Spiritual Advisor—Diana' Hope—Negro Ambition—Colonel Lee's Edate—Its Condi-tion—The Esprit de Corps of General McClellan's Troops

Robert Meskum and his wife Diana are the leading colored people on this plasmation. Their cabin is the largest of about twenty negro habitations upon the estate. It has a clay floor, except at the end eccupied by the chimney and fireplace, where a brick pavement extends the entire width of the house. The lower part of the chimney extends across the end of the building likewise, and as one sits upon this ample hearth he may see the plantation. She has never been beyond its duries. Robert was raised in Prince William coun-and became the property of Colonel Lee by marriage with Miss Carter, of that county; being transferred to this estate, Robert tann, who was a widow. Colonel Lee is the me hundred and fifty negroes, about equally streem this plantation and his farm in Prince

Robers and Disma are representative characters. Robert is the adviser of the "people" of the plantation, in both spiritual and temporal affairs. He is a Baptist, and has held religious exercises in his cabin for many years. Disma is also plaus, and hopeful of a heaven where there heap ob ups and downs, crosses and come-backs, but my desire is unto do and." When told that the Yankees ald be very likely to kill Massa Lee, she replied very aplacently that "De Lord's will must be done unto

know what the word manut. The nat not even heard of Wendell Philips. She above that a man had burg for fighting out the claves, and remembered that his man is John

Brown. She was asked if the colored folks srown. She was asked if the colored folks here over entertained a hope of being freed, and replied, "Well, I hab hear some say so; but others said it would never be. A good many years ago de vessels used to come up dis yere ribber and get a great deal of timber, and de capiain of one of dem vessels tols me, when I was mournin' because my daughter was sold away, that I should lib to see de day when all would be free; but it nebber come."

Two days ago Colonel Ingalls, who has charge band should assemble all the able bodied negroes of the place and he would set them at work for the United the negroes have gone to work in the quartermaster's de-partment, but most of them prefer to engage as servants to officers. It seems to be the heighth of their ambition to black a colonei's boots. The negro quarters here abound in children. One cabin has fifteen, nearly alike

Diana says that the original Custis mansion was burned several years ago, and that General Washington was married in it. The present building, called the "White House," was built upon the brick basement of the former one. The estate is a princely one. From the bank of the Pamunkey river it extends farther than the eye can see. A level plateau, comprising some seven hundred acres, bordered by a semicircle of undulating woodlands, is under tillage. That portion on which wheat is growing has been left unharmed; but the clover, which was knee deep and in blossom when we arrived, has been destroyed by our troops who are encamped upon it. It is a humiliating spectacle for the Southerners to see a rich plantation, which has been for se many years the property of the F. F. V. par excellence—the first family of Virginia, allied to the immortal Washington—trampled upon by invaders, in the testh of those boasting legions who swore that no Yankee foot should profane

opportunities to harass our army should we attempt to march directly to Richmond. The robels have wisely determined not to risk the chances of being captured in letail while playing that game, and retired beyond the

iurs dream of nothing but victory, at whatever cost.

disappointed more than these. It is neither a wid a muddy ditch, nor hath it enough water to drow

is more nearly impassable any day s went over. It is simply a brook that finds its shady way through the woods, and whose course cannot be traced in the landscape at any distance from it. them. Perhaps they are either further upon further down the stream than the point of which I now speak which is that where the river is intersected by the ichmond stage road and spanned by Bottom's Bridge.
Neither was Bottom's Bridge a remarkable affair,

Neither was Bottom's Bridge a remarkable affair, but a mere country convenience placed beside a ford to give people the option of going over dry shod if they wished. It was probably blown up with about a pound and a half of powder; but why the rebe's should have wasted even that small amount of the precious dust I cannot see; for the de struction of Bottom's Bridge could not possibly detain us The above was written at ten o'clock A. M., after a The above was written at ten o'clock A. M., after a visit to the stream. Then the sun shone brilliantly and hotly; it was a summer day, clear and intense, and the ittle stream afforded a pleasant refreshment to the horses that waded and the men that washed in it. It is now three o'clock P. M., and there is a change. Since noon we have had a shower, rather more than heavy. For half an hour the whole space, from our little outlook, seemed like the face of a cataract. Water fell less in drops than in masses. By way of conclusion, our horses were finely pelted with hallatones of the average size of hickorynuts. Now everything is affect, especially the Chickahominy. The little rural stream that we saw to-day is gonewashed away, no doubt. We remember it as a thing that might have delighted the soul of Herrick, or any other poet very moderately aquatic in sentiment. In truth, it Birket Foster's fancy. But it is gone. In its place there is a wide, disturbed lake, that stretches up into the fields beyond either bank, muddy and turbulent, but much

from their little shelter tents, scarcely the drier for the cover; and "there are some that leap and some that dance, like troutlets in a pool." We enjoy the shower now as a glorious addition to the landscape; but a fer each seated on an island of blanket and india rubber, absorbed in melancholy and intensely interested contemplation of certain rivulets and pools that made the floor of said tent deep and damp as the bed of the late Chickahominy river. But the waters were assuaged and we are safe. One incident of the storm, however, is worthy of remembrance. Half a dozen hallstones formished us with the means to enjoy whiskey and ice as comfortably as it could have been done at a New York hotel.

Two hundred men from the Tenth Measuchusetts and Thirty-sixth New York regiments, under command of Licettanant Colonel Decker, have built a good bridge which more than supplies the place of the bridge that was Bottom's. At four o'clock P. M. Captain Spaulding, of the Fiftieth New York regiment, came up with a bridge train and a hundred men, and by nightfail had apaned the stream with an "Austrian trestle bridge" one hundred feet in length. Other bridges will doubtless be thrown agross, above and below, without dalay and

not be like the Massachusetts boys not to hurry them a little, so there was an exchange of abots, without loss

valor. And the affair was a brilliant one. In my ac-count of it, which had to be written very hastily to catch the first departing mail, I was obliged to omit

And this brother continued in the hottest of the fight during the two hours it leated. He afterwards said that he had more than avenged the death of his brother. "I might have shot you half a desen times," re-marked one of the prisoners, after the fight, to Colonel

Woodbury.

"Why did'nt you?" asked the Colonel, with that oness of manner for which he is remarkable.

"I took you to be some damn common mounted ore

that came whistling about their heads. A stray Minle ball passed through one of the reins of the bridle of Colonel Woodbury's horse. Another ball hit the breech of Captain Spalding's revolver, completely shattering the wood part, but doing no harm, happily, to the owner. Captain Spalding, it will be remembered, was shot in front of Yorktown, in the left arm, and a lewe of absence was offseed him, which he refused to accept. All the line officers behaved gallantly as well as the men. Fording and swimming the Chickahominy, as they did, carrying thair musicate and carrying the second that the country is the second.

wounded in my written account, will not live the day out. All the remaining wounded are doing well, as also the rebel wounded. The former are under the care of Drs. Clark and Chamberlain, and the latter under Drs. Churchill and West, of the same brigade—the general medical supervision being in the hands of Dr. Wm. E.

Our Force Vigorous-What of the Robels?-Gener Ciellan's Plans-The While Oak Swamp, &c.

successful, is called "brilliant," or, unsuccess. His plans perhaps, "heroic devotion" or toolkardiness. His plans are all laid with the utmost precision and certainty, precertainty of a glorious conclusion.

before they took up their line of march from Baltimore Cross Roads. His advent was hailed with the livelies enthusiasm, and officers and men cheered till fairl hoarse. Whatever may be thought of him elsewhere he certainly has the hearts of those now under his com

he certainly has the hearts of those now under his command.

The announcement that the battle of Williamsburg was to be faithfully recorded in the Hurano of the 24th was received with delight by the division under General Hocker, who, not without reason, complain that justice has not been done thom and Kearney's troops in the accounts so far published of the doings of that day.

Bince the fight they seem almost to adore their generals, and whenever they ride along the lines their approach is passed from regiment to regiment by the heartiest cheering. Notwithstanding their severe loss at Williamsburg, they are ready for another fight, and, if occasion requires, will give as good an account of them.

There were a few copies of the Herand brought into camp this morning containing the account of the Williamsburg fight. What few were brought here were snatched up at twenty-five ceuts, and the fortunate possessors were offered fifty conts and a dollar for their copies, with few willing to take even that price. The White Oak Swamp proves to be not so dismally

traversing it in all directions. A steam sawmill is located near the centre of the swamp; and, from the quantity of freeh sawdust and slabs in the violnity, appears to have done an extensive business recently.

The greatest activity prevails all along the lines, and it is quite possible that, before this reaches you, the telegraph may announce the advent of the army into Richmond or a great battle. A feeling of certainty of success pervades the whole army—officers and men—and the army is in the best of condition for a fight.

CHICKAROMENT, May 27, 1862.

An Important Letter Found—The Rebel Force in this Fi

In an abandoned camp of the enemy, near which one of our regiments rested, the following letter was found:

mas heard on the right yesterday, but the cause or precise locality is not known to us. Some one of the numerous correspondents of the Herald will, no doubt, be there to give you an account of the affair.

This portion of the army is passing through a section of Virginia which has not before been traversed by the troops of either army, and the contrast is most striking. For almost the first time since entering the State this army has seen cultivated fields. Here the corn is planted and ready for the hoe. The wheat, green and luxuriant, is just heading out, with promises of an excellent crop; the clover fields, dressed in their gayest bloom, and everything wearing the appearance of the lower portion of the ponisuals.—there the fences gone, the fields laid waste, cultivation suspended, the houses dilapidated, the gardens overrun and desolation written on every hand. Truly has Virginia suffered for her perfley to the Union. Long years of toil will be necessary to restore the agricultural condition of the State, regardless of the financial, moral and political aspect of her affairs.

pressed for a reason, can only find some miserable tale of what the Yankees intended to do to them had

road turns very suddenly to the north, and the Charles City road runs away from it in a nearly opposite direcvance on the other, it was necessary to guard it, and Gen Couch was sent down and encamped on it at about a mile from the junction, and General Casey's division following This latter march was begun on Sunday, at ten A. M., and it was literaded to half at the Soven Pines, a point within seven miles of Righmond; but, owing to the nature of the country this intention was relinquished, and the advance encamped a mile or more short of the The position in which the corps now rested was a very pleasant one. To the left of the road was an extensive the other direction. On the side opposite from the road this plain was bounded by another thick wood, and be hind this wood, to the left of General Casey, lay General

Couch's division.

Arrangements were begun as soon as the corps rested to carry out further orders, which were that the men should have three days' rations in their haversacks at all times, and that all wagons and superfluous baggage should be sent beyond the Chickahominy. It was evident that we were to march from this camp to battle—that is if there was to be a battle—and with this conviction.

pickets in front that the comy were advancing in force on the Richmond road. All was in readiness and expectation. One brigade of Casey's division was sent forand all of Couch's were held in readiness to move at a moment's notice. But it was a false alarm. The brigade that went forward in such gay good humor found no one and returned. Later, Gen. Casey's whole division was moved forward two miles further on the road 10, wards Richmond. Geh. Couch's division was then set to work with intrenching tools in large details, and that night and the next day (Tuesday) completed a line of rife pits all along the front of Gen. Casey's late camps, and also constructed several redoubts for cannon. These works made the position a strong one; but they were constructed moves for their moval than material affect.

A Shirman General Early—Dr. Brown, de.

This morning as sunrise there was a skirmish on the Richmond road, within four miles of Richmond, between our advance pickets and a party of the enemy, thrown

Carolina, the Twenty-fourth and Thirtieth Virginia, and the Second Florida regiments, and fifty from the Second

woods and drove in our outer pickets, but were driven off by the supports without difficulty.

Our loss was severe for so small a matter. Major John E. Keeley, of the Ninety-sixth New York, was killed, and also a private of the same regiment. Several of the enemy's men were hit, and one left on the field was brought in; he will probably die before night. From him we learn that Early's brigade—the brigade beaten by Hancock at Williamsburg—is encamped near us, and that General Early has recovered from his wound and is in command.

This corps advanced two miles to-day.

Dr. Joseph B. Brewn, Istely Medical Director of the Bourth corps, has been transferred to Franklin's corps.

He is succeeded by Dr. Frank Hamilton.

Gen. Gassy's Division Before the Fight-The Excelsion Bri-pade, de.
Canov's division is within even and a baif miles

of the city of Richmond. On the 21st of May the

oned officers and privates were buried on

and fearing a mistake. The Colonel of the rebel regiment, for so it was, called out, "Show your colors." This Colonel Dwight did not do. "Is that the regiment," said the rebel Colonel. Then Colonel Dwight ordered his colors to be displayed. The rebel Colonel then exclaimed, "You are prisoners." A partial volley from the rebel regiment short range, was very destructive. So much so, that the

can stand this fire." "I amordered to hold this positional Colonel Dwight, "and, besides, retreat is impress we se than annihilation." "But," said the Captain, and at the moment a ball passed through his head and the seu-tence was unspoken. He was dead. The gallant Major Stevens, of the Third regiment Excelsior brigade, at this time addressed Col. Dwight, to know what he thought of the position and prospects. Col. Dwight told him that Hooker's saving him by clearing his left. To the adju tant, who was going at this moment to inform the brigade commander of the condition things, the gallant

Major said, held the position."

Colonel Dwight was before this time himself wounded in the thigh. Licutebaht Colonel Farnum had gone from the field wounded in both thighs. Captain O'Reilly had died gallantly early in the action. Captain Brunn had died fighting with extraordinary resolution, and many

other officers were wounded.

Captain Bugbes, than whom a more heroic soldier never breathed, now came to Colonel Dwight and informed him of the small quantity of amountain yet remaining, of the increasing numbers of the rebels, and spoke. also, of the frequency with which the robel regiments were relieved. Colonel Dwight acknowledged the facts

'At this time every officer seemed a hero; but distin guished for their dauntiess bearing were Captains Price and Bugbee, Lieutenants Zeigler, Miller, Howe,

and died with his band on it; and the regimental blacksmith, who fought as if made of iron, and came out of
the fire as unharmed as his own forge.

During this unequal contest Colonel Dwight endeavored, and, with temporary success, to check the enemy's
fire. He ordered twenty men from each company to
spring from their position, and the regiment to cheer
and shout loudly, directing the men who sprang forward
to halt and lie down after advancing a few paces. Immediately the rebel line wavered, and their fire ceased,
and the regiment had a short relief from their unceasing
and deadly volleys. This lasted only for a
few moments, when it was resumed. The
shout and advance answered its purpose,
however, which was to gain time, and it was long before
the rebels regained the whole of their lost ground and nowever, which was to gain time, and it was long before the rebeis regained the whole of their lost ground and so corely pressed the devoted regiment. It is, however, quite an instructive lesson of the significance of Yankee cheers to the rebei mind, even when it is intoxicated by apparent superiority. The ammunition of his men was exhausted. "Take what ammunition you can from the dead and wounded then just about at the moment when the reinforcem rived, an order came from the brigade of rived, an order came from the brigade commander to retreat. Colonel Dwight, as he turned his head, saw that the line, which had been so long maintained by constant personal presence and the devotion of his officers and men, had received the order from another messenger from the brigade commander, and that the right of his line was retreating. He saw, toe, that some of his men, under the order to retreat, had turned their backs to the enemy. Fearing a panic and a disorderly retreat, he sprang up before the line and said, "Fall back, slowly, with your faces to the enemy, in good order." He had hardly spoken when two bails struck him; one out his forehead, the other wounded his groin severely. He fell, stunned and blinded by the flow of blood from his head. The First Excelsior regiment withdrew under a galling fire. The regiment, it is said, withdraw. But how? In the morning, through a long and muddy read, it had tolled, The regiment, it is said, witherew. But how? In the morning, through a long and muddy read, it had tolled, eight hundred men, towards the scene of its trial and glory. For two long hours it had held many rold its numbers in check. In the evening it moved out from the enemy's fire with empty cartridge boxes and fixed bayonets, numbering less than four hundred effective men. Two of its field officers and twenty of its company officers had failen. As this broken has an analysis of the second of the secon

and marched by General Heintzelman to the rear, the

ion, and who we have any property of these who participated in has severe battle."

Composed of companies from Mussachusetts, New York, few Jersey, Pennsylvania and Michigan, the First Excellent regiment belongs to the country and its fame is theirs. This simple record of their trial and of their contents. duct is, perhaps, worthy to be known and to be remem bered by the States from which they came.

## OPERATIONS OF THE GUNBOATS.

Outron States Strangen Strates Strangen Stores, City Point, James River, Va., May 26, 1862. }
Delightful Scenery on James River—An Estensive Plansation and its Private Railroad—A Deserted Rail Battery—The Fleet at Anchor—Read Deserters—Moss Coming—Unide Senting Our Naval Correspondence

river, in the same order in which we safe, but as the Court de Lion is very slow, we soon passed her, and during the passage up we had to slacken speed to avoid leaving her out of sight, the Island Belle still remaining ahead. At some distance above Nowport's News we arrived opposite a battery that had soom erected by the robels, but over which the Stars and Stripes were now waving. Continuing on our course, we arrived at Jamestown Island, where the gunboat Port Royal was lying, and after a beat from her had communicated with us we proceeded

considerably, a few miles below this place. been evidently mounted, and immediately above, ascended by wooden stairs, was another, calculated for and we were allowed to pass in peace

A few miles farther up brought us to City Point, where we found the Wachusett, the Aroostook and the Monitor, vessels of war, lying. The Galens is a little way above. The Massachusetts is near by, and is to take this letter

the number of our fleet.

From one of the schooners the Island Belle, Stepping Stones and Cour de Lion have received several sheet of boiler iron, to protect their pilot houses from mus ketry, from which I gather that we are to be employed deancht if not our invulnerability, fits us.

at the City Point depot from Petersburg. Immediately a a boat bearing a white flag was sent from the

The boat made a second trip, but I have not been able to learn the nature of the communication. It is said that these fisgs of truce are of every day occurrence.

Since writing the foregoing I have been on board the Wachusett and had an interview with Captain Smith, the commanding officer of the squadron on this river. Last evening two desertors from the rebels embraced the opportunity while on picket guard to desert and go on board the Wachusett. They say they were long waiting for an opportunity, as are a great number of others. In fact, they know five hundred men in Petersburg who are ready to leave the rebel ranks, but the impossibility of so many men deserting in a body without being immediations. ready to leave the rebal ranks, but the impossibility of so many men deserting in a body without being immediately missed and captured by a superior force prevents them. The people, too, entertain Union sentiments to an extent not generally suspected; but as each distrinstable neighbor, all are fearful of speaking first.

The deserters give a fearful account of the scarcity or provisions in Petersburg and Richmond. In the latter city four rose in one day from seven to ten dollars a barrel, with a rapidly upward tendency. Almost everybody who could get away was leaving in the greatest consternation.

sternation.

I have learned, though not from Captain Smith, that the three vessels I have already named as having come up here to-day are to recommoitre the Chickshominy and

up here to-day are to reconnoitre the Chickshominy and the Appatomox rivers. I suppose we will be sent up the former. In either case we must prepare for a fu-silade; but, disagreeable as this may be, it is far better than carrying hay and borses. It was erroneously stated in the newspapers that the effect into by the rebels some days age had a fing of trues flying from their boat at the time. This is an error, as learn from an effect of the Wachusett. The surgeon on board that vessel was saked to go on shore to visit a sick person. He consented, and as the boat was on an errand of mercy, which, it was erroneously thought, was generally understood on shore, the white flag was omit-ted. Hence the firing into the boat and the lamentable results—killing, wounding and capturing. It is right to give even the devil his doe; and, therefore, if there are any rebels who can be exculpated from any further in-famy than simple rebellion, they ought to have the bene-fit of the whitewashing, such as it is.

A Reconnoissance—Defiant Actions of the Robels—The Strpping Stones Receives a Volley of Musketry from Rebel Bushwhackers—She Replies and Silences the Rebels, dc. The Stepping Stones and the Cour de Lion have just

The Stepping Stones took the tend, closely followed by ber concret, to emble her to do which we slacksaed atom considerably. A Mort distance from the mouth